REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-19 have been rejected.

FORMAL DRAWINGS

The Examiner has requested that the Applicant file formal drawings. While our records indicate that formal drawings were filed with the application on August 21, 2003, copies of the original formal drawings are attached for the Examiner's convenience.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,287). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-19 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1 includes features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art, namely:

> A storage platform comprising:
>> a database engine;
>> a data store implemented on the database engine for storing data therein, wherein the data store implements a data model that supports the organization, searching, sharing, synchronization, and security of data stored in the data store and wherein specific types of data are described in schemas; and
>> an application programming interface that enables application programs to access services and capabilities of the storage platform and to access the data described in the schemas,
>> wherein **the storage platform further supports interoperability with existing file systems, enables users and systems to synchronize data stored in different instances of the data store, and provides the ability for application programs to be notified about and to track changes made to the data in the data store.**

Kumar et al. teach systems and methods for implementing a link between a profile service and an external data store (Kumar et al., col. 5, ll. 61-64). The link turns the profile service into a functional meta-directory that enables profile information to be distributed throughout a distributed computing system (Id., col. 1, ll. 64-67).

Kumar et al., fails to teach or suggest **a storage platform supporting interoperability with existing file systems, enabling users and systems to synchronize data stored in different instances of the data store, and providing the ability for application programs to be notified about and to track changes made to the data in the data store,** as required by claim 1.

First, the Examiner states that Kumar et al. teaches **a storage platform supporting interoperability with existing file systems** at column 2, lines 7-35 (Office Action, page 3). To the contrary, the cited portion of Kumar et al. merely discloses the problems associated with application specific profile information and prior solutions involving the duplication of profile information across multiple systems (Kumar et al., col. 2, ll. 7-35). There is no mention in the cited portion, or anywhere else in Kumar et al., of supporting interoperability with existing file systems.

Second, the Examiner states that Kumar et al. teaches **enabling users and systems to synchronize data stored in different instances of the data store, and providing the ability for application programs to be notified about and to track changes made to the data in the data store** at column 4, lines 34-40 (Office Action, page 3). To the contrary, the cited background portion of Kumar et al. teaches a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol ("LDAP") directory distributed among several LDAP servers, wherein each server contains a replicated version of the entire directory that is periodically synchronized with each of the LDAP servers (Kumar et al., col. 4, ll. 37-36). There is no mention anywhere in the cited portion, or anywhere else in Kumar et al., of notifying application programs of changes made to the data, or tracking changes made to the data.

Because Kumar et al. fails to teach or suggest **a storage platform supporting interoperability with existing file systems, enabling users and systems to synchronize data stored in different instances of the data store, and providing the ability for application programs to be notified about and to track changes made to the data in the data store,** it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 1.

Claims 2-19 are all variously dependent on claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given above. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 2-19.
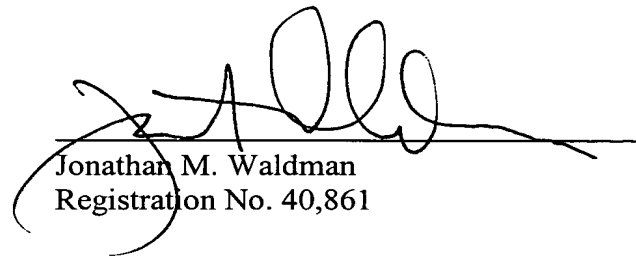
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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